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A REPORT
OF A
COMMITTEE OF THE
PRESBYTERY OF FAYETTEVILLE,
ON THE
CONDITION AND PROSPECTS
OF
DAVIDSON COLLEGE;
TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED
RESOLUTIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY,
TOUCHING THE SUBJECT MATTER
OF THE REPORT.

FAYETTEVILLE :

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1845.

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RESOLUTIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY.

1. *Resolved*, That the report on the condition and prospects of Davidson College, as amended, be, and it hereby is, adopted.
2. *Resolved*, That 500 copies thereof, be published, in pamphlet form.
3. *Resolved*, That the object of endowing a Professorship in Davidson College, be specially commended, to the prayers, and the benevolent contributions of our people.
4. *Resolved*, That, should the Trustees of said College appoint a suitable Agent, at a proper time, with a view to the accomplishment of this object, such Agent shall receive a cordial welcome to the pulpits of the members of this Presbytery, and all the encouragement and assistance that it may be in their power to extend to him, in his efforts to obtain the necessary funds for endowing the contemplated Professorship.

REPORT.



The committee appointed by the Presbytery, to visit Davidson College, and make inquiry concerning its condition and prospects, ask leave to present the following report.

As the object of the Presbytery, in making the inquiry concerning Davidson College, is connected with all the movements within the State, on the subject of Education, your committee have thought it expedient, to extend their remarks, so as to embrace an inquiry respecting the expediency of establishing, in North Carolina, Colleges, in addition to the University. In proceeding to their subject, your committee deem it not irrelevant to remark, that the importance of an extended and liberal provision for the education of the young, is too generally admitted, to require an argument in its defence. Whether we consider it, in connexion with the stability and perpetuity of our political institutions, or with the well being of society, or with individual comfort, such a provision is equally important.

The framers of our State Constitution, under an impression of the importance of providing means for educating the young, thought it not enough to leave the business to the contingency of future legislation; but made it a constituent part of the fundamental law of the State, that an University should be established and fostered. Their views, however, seem not to have reached beyond the establishment of a single institution. Their calculations were based on the then existing state of things. The State had not, previous to that time, enjoyed the privilege of a durable College; and there had been no opportunity of obtaining a liberal education, except at a great expense, such as few of the people could afford. Consequently, few had obtained a liberal education; and because few had been thus educated, the number to be educated, it was supposed, would be comparatively small; and, of course, it was thought, that one institution would be sufficient for the whole State. No adequate calculation seems to have been made for the great increase of population, that, in process of time, would spread itself over the wide extended territory, then a wilderness, but now become a fruitful field. The condition of the State, since the introduction of the article upon the University into the Constitution, has been materially changed. There is the same land; but the wilderness teems with an extensive population, which has reached into remote parts, that then were scarcely known.

The State of North Carolina covers an extent of territory, of not less than Forty-eight thousand square miles. In its extreme length, it is not less than Four hundred and thirty miles; and in breadth, a hundred and eighty. It embraces a population of more than Seven hundred and thirty-five thousand inhabitants; of which number, at least five hundred thousand are white; interested in, and requiring suitable Schools for education. For this population, we had, till recently, but one College. The average

number of persons, graduated at this institution, annually, will not, it is believed, reach forty; but we will suppose that to be the true number. Some young men, we admit, have gone, from this State, to other institutions, for education; but, the number has, probably, never exceeded that of those, who have come from other States to be educated in this. Since the establishment of Wake Forest, and Davidson Colleges, the number of the graduated, within the State, has somewhat increased. Still, it is believed, the average annual number, does not exceed fifty. Taking this as the true average, we have one graduate to ten thousand inhabitants;—a proportion, small indeed, considering the amount of population; and a proportion that shews, in no equivocal light, the estimate put upon Classical Education among us. In the State of Connecticut, the number of young men graduated at her Colleges, for a few years past, has been as one to twenty-four hundred of the number of inhabitants. In the same ratio, we should have, annually, about two hundred. Taking the New-England States together, the ratio of young men, graduated at the different Colleges, is, to the whole population, as one to five thousand. The number of persons in the process of education, at the different Colleges in Massachusetts, is, as one to fourteen hundred of the population: In Connecticut,—one to six hundred: In North Carolina, One to four thousand. Adopting the ratio of the last mentioned State, we should have, in the process of College Education, not less than eight hundred and thirty; or, taking the ratio of the other mentioned State, we should have, at least, three hundred and fifty.

In Connecticut, more are, probably, in the course of education, than the State itself furnishes: In Massachusetts, less. What number of those, graduated at our University, and other Colleges, are educated in reference to the gospel Ministry, is not easy to determine: Probably, however, three, Annually, would be a high estimate; while, at some of the Colleges in New-England, one third of the class have this object in view; and, in all, the proportion is large.

If, then, public education is to be as well proportioned to the population, as in those parts of the country that have been mentioned, it seems to be almost a matter of necessity, that there should be more than one or two Colleges within our borders. Massachusetts, with the same numerical population as this State contains, has three Colleges; Connecticut, with a population of Three hundred thousand, has three also: Vermont has two; while we, with a nearly three-fold population, have, till recently, had but one.

What the effect on the community would be, were as large a number to go forth, annually, from our Colleges, as in those Northern States mentioned, experience only could determine. Certain it is, however, that the influence of such a body of young men, could not be otherwise than great. But, a single institution, especially if situated as our University is, at a remote distance from the extreme parts of the State, could not, without vast expense, become adequate to the education of such a number.

The probable effect of an increased number of Colleges upon the literature and educational concerns of the State, is not to be overlooked, in making up an opinion, on this subject.

Experience has shewn, that, wherever the means of education have been enlarged, there has been a proportionate increase of educated men.

As literary institutions, in their various grades, have been multiplied, so have the numbers of those that resort to them, been increased. In every State of the Union, as primary schools have been established and extended, an increasing attention has been given to elementary education. The multiplication of primary schools, has prepared the way for, and occasioned an increase in the number of intermediate schools. These, in their turn, have called for an additional number of Colleges. Every stage, in the improvement of primary schools, has called for a corresponding improvement in the higher institutions; so that, there has been an advance, in both their number and character.

The correctness of this remark must be obvious to every one, who has watched the progress of things, in our Country. In North Carolina, as less has been done for the primary schools, so there has been less occasion for the establishment of the higher institutions. The efforts now making for the establishment and improvement of primary schools, will, however, if successful, soon prepare the way for the enlargement of the number of higher institutions. An impulse will proceed from these elementary schools, in every department of education. Already, a redeeming spirit has been aroused; and, when a better acquaintance with the workings of the system shall have carried it forward to greater perfection, an influence will, of course, reach to the higher branches of learning.

The sure and certain consequence of the general diffusion of elementary knowledge, is, a demand for higher attainments. Intermediate schools will, therefore increase in number, and improve in character; and the demand for an increased provision, in Colleges, will follow. Greater numbers will be educated, because there will be a call for the services of more, in teaching, and in the learned professions; while many, who expect to retire into private life after having passed through College, will aspire after an education, in order to fit them to hold a better rank, and enable them to gain a greater influence, in an improved state of society.

On the supposition, then, that our system of primary schools is to prosper, it is easy to perceive, that there must be, in some way, an extended provision for higher institutions. There must be an onward movement, in all the machinery of education. If one part be clogged, the motion of every other part will be obstructed; and if one part be made to move with accelerated velocity, a corresponding impulse must be given to the other.

But, further, while, from the primary schools, there is an upward influence upon the higher institutions; there will be a corresponding influence downwards, from the higher to the lower. The greater the number of those who have gained an extended education, and the more complete this education is, so much the more extensive and salutary will be the influence sent down upon the lower institutions of learning. The number of competent teachers, will, thus, be increased; and the half-educated, will be compelled to give place to those, who are better prepared, and can perform their work, in a better manner. They, too, who, after having completed their College course, retire into private life, will scatter about them, a wider and more savoury influence, that will extend itself, not only to the schools, but to the improvement of the public taste, and the general benefit of society. Thus, there will be an action, and a re-action, from the one class of institutions to the other. The lower, will become a stim-

ulens to the higher; and the higher will send back an influence, and give a finish to the lower.

Inasmuch, then, as an increase of educated men is desirable, so, we ought to wish, that the means of education should be extended. Confined to one College, the number of the educated, in proportion to the population, will be comparatively small. Distance of place, difficulty of access, and the greatness of expense, will deter some. An object at a distance, unless of uncommon brilliancy, is lost sight of, in the distance; while, even an object of inferior excellence, engages our attention, because of its nearness.

Further: Experience has fully shown, that a great number of students, scattered in different institutions, are likely to do better, to become more thorough scholars, and, ultimately, more useful men, than when congregated, for education, in one. Should the time come, when the proportion of young men in the process of education in North Carolina, shall equal that of some of the more favoured States of New-England, it will be far from being desirable, that all should be congregated in one place.

We regard, therefore, the establishment of new Colleges, in this State, as by no means to be deprecated. We believe the effect on the literature of the State, and on all the minor educational operations, will be salutary; and that the good of the community will be materially promoted. Indeed, we believe, that such a measure is intimately connected with our prosperity, and with our reputation, as well as with the success of the exertions that have been commenced, in relation to elementary education.

Nor need we fear, that the establishment of other institutions will be detrimental to the University. We fully believe, that, instead of becoming an injury, they would rather become an occasion of good. The experience of other sections of the Country removes every ground of fear, and completely refutes all objections, on this point. When Amherst College was established, it was predicted, that Williams' College would be injured, if not ruined. Time has shown, that both can live; and that both can flourish. The establishment of Amherst, of Washington at Hartford, and of the Wesleyan College at Middletown, it was thought, would materially injure Yale: Yet, Yale has never been so prosperous, as since these institutions were established. Our University, in like manner, we apprehend, instead of being injured, would be benefitted, by the establishment of one or more Colleges, within the State. Whatever will advance the literary character of the State, will add to the importance and influence of the University. Its friends will become more watchful, and more active; and will do more for its good. Its own literary character will be advanced, by the stimulus of other institutions. If the standard of scholarship, and the discipline of the other, be high, an unwillingness to be outdone, will give an impulse to this. Suppose, that, instead of the fifty young men who now go, annually, from all our Colleges, there were four times that number going out, to scatter a wholesome influence through society, who cannot see, that immense results would follow? Even allowing, that many of these went abroad for employment; yet, the portion that remained, above the present number, would materially change the face of society. We are well aware, that some may be disposed to ask, where such a number as is contemplated can find employment! We are looking for-

ward to a time, when the condition of things, in our State, will be materially changed. We suppose, that, in the various departments of society, there will be an increasing demand for educated men; and that the demand and the supply will be commensurate. The influence, upward and downward, will be mutual. Were the change to be effected at once,— were the full quota, according to the ratio mentioned, to be sent out immediately into the State, the supply might be found greater than the demand. But, we are supposing a gradual improvement in our condition; and that, as the demand for educated men increases, a train of means, adequate to the supply, will be put in operation. Colleges are not brought to perfection, in a day, or a year. They commonly spring from small beginnings; and grow up with the growth and demands of society. They are first to be planted; and, we apprehend, that, already, such a state of things exists among us as calls for the commencement of the work.

There are other arguments which serve to confirm the opinion we have given. The University has now as many students as its buildings can well accommodate. The number of students, too, is about as large as it is expedient to congregate at one place for education, especially when surrounded by a population that receives an influence from, rather than gives an influence to the institution.

But there are still other arguments that deserve attention. A single fountain may send forth a valuable stream; but gentle rivulets, flowing from many fountains, are more effectual, to refresh and fertilize a country.

The University is an institution that deserves the patronage of the public. But, it is a single fountain, amid a wide-spread extent of territory. Other institutions, though they may not equal this in extent of means, or in the measure of influence, may, yet, like smaller fountains, do much, to spread a refreshing influence through the community. Places too remote from the University to feel its influence, would be so affected, that, instead of one central point, to which all must look, there would be other points of local attraction. While we speak of Colleges that may be inferior to the University, we would, by no means, be understood to be the advocates of a superficial education; nor, for the sake of making education cheaper, would we recommend, that it should be less thorough. Education can never be too thorough, or extensive. Admit, then, that, for a time, newly established institutions may stand in a rank below the University, shall we say, that nothing ought to be done, because perfection cannot, at once, be attained? If it be desirable to increase the number of educated men, it is certainly desirable, that such adequate institutions should be established as will secure easy access, and be likely to attract numbers to their privileges. Even inferior advantages, are, sometimes, to be tolerated, if pecuniary considerations forbid that better can be had. In such a country as ours, men of different grades of intellectual culture are needed, to fill the different stations in society. Every educated man is not expected to be a Newton; nor do the wants of society require, that every man, to be useful, should be of such gigantic stature. Men of humble attainments may be as useful, and do as much to diffuse a savoury influence through society, as they who can measure the comet's flight, or open the store-house of nature, and disclose her hidden treasures. But, further: Colleges do not make men. However well endowed, however abundant in

their means, and however well qualified the teachers may be, it does not follow, that all the students will attain to great eminence in scholarship; or, that they will all rise, to a superiority over those who enjoy inferior privileges. Nay, it often happens, in opposition to this, that, where the advantages have been best, the amount of study has been less; because the student, relying upon the superiority of his privileges, neglects to apply himself;—so that a student, in what is considered an inferior institution, has often out-done another, whose advantages have been far superior; for the plain reason, that, knowing his privileges to be inferior, he makes up the deficiency, by industry and self-application. It is self-application that makes the scholar; and, wherever correct habits of application are best formed, wherever the mind is best trained to think, act, and depend on itself, there, the best education is obtained. In new institutions, that are struggling to form a character, a strictness of discipline, and a rigour of principle, such as are not found in older institutions, are often seen. Often, too, it happens, that, while older and more noted institutions are filled by the sons of the wealthy, who deem close application a burden, other, and younger, and, perhaps, inferior institutions, are filled, chiefly, with those, who, having no other resource, from which to draw a future support, than their education, by industriously improving their time, acquire a control over themselves, accumulate a stock of knowledge, and, on going out into society, rise to the first places of public esteem. Within the compass of the last half-century, the means and helps to an education have been greatly increased; but, it is much to be questioned, whether a greater proportion of those, who have gone out from our Colleges, within that period, have laid a foundation for greater usefulness, than in the preceding period. They have, it is true, acquired a knowledge of many things before unknown; but, that they have been distinguished for a greater depth of thought, or have become prepared for greater usefulness in society, may be questioned. Grant, then, that, for years, a newly established College may not equal the University, it may yet fit men to act well their part in life. It may raise up useful men;—thinking men;—men trained to habits of self-application; and men, that will go forth into the world, to become the instruments of much good. We regard, therefore, the establishment of Colleges, in addition to the University, among the most important means of promoting the public welfare.

There is another reason that may be offered, for the establishment of another College. It relates to the training of men for the gospel ministry. How are the churches to be supplied with educated men, as religious teachers? The number of Clergymen, who have been educated at the University, forms but a small portion, even of the few educated Ministers now living in the State. What number may, in former years, have annually gone forth from her walls, to enter the sacred office, we have no means of knowing; but, the average number, during the last ten years, it is believed, will not exceed three. If this be a fair ratio, the question may well be asked,—How are the churches to be supplied? Will it be said,—“Send your young men to the University, and let them be educated for the purpose”!—It is not our province to find fault with the University; nor have we a desire so to do. For the purposes for which it was intended, it is a valuable institution; but, to make provision for the education of young

men for the Ministry, formed no particular part of the arrangements of its projectors. Their object was general. Young men were to be liberally educated, in literature and science, without any particular reference to occupation. The influences that, at present, cluster around the institution, partake little of a ministerial character. The Board of Trustees has been confined, from the first, almost exclusively, to Civilians. It includes, at present, but one clergymen. A large portion of the students, have either retired into private life, or entered the Medical or Legal profession. The tone of feeling that now pervades the institution, is connected with these professions. A large portion, through the facilities presented for that purpose, are, at this time, looking forward to the profession of law. Their thoughts, their anticipations, their calculations, turn upon this; and their course of studies, in the closing year, in particular, favours these views.

All this is well: yet, these influences are unfavourable to an education for the gospel ministry. The tone of piety, under such circumstances, is not likely to be very elevated. The associations that gather around the Student, are not such as are calculated to keep alive the flame of devotion. Where little is said of religion, and where the popular topics of discussion are diverse from this, it is not easy to keep the mind in that frame, which is necessary to him, who is looking forward to the sacred Ministry. A young man, who has that profession in view, needs all the helps which can be gathered around him, to prepare his mind for the work. He needs the stimulus of associates, who have the same object in view. The associations that cluster around him, should, as much as possible, be such as to beget increased seriousness of thought, greater devotion, and a growing attachment to every thing appertaining to his contemplated profession. This is not likely to be found, where the Ministry is excluded from a proportionate share in the management of the institution. Civilians, however upright and worthy, in their place, cannot be supposed to enter, deeply, into those things which concern the Ministry. Nor will the Ministry be likely to take a deep interest in an institution, where men of their profession are, generally, excluded from a share in its management. We say not this, to find fault with the course pursued. The State has an undoubted right, to appoint whom it pleases, to the Office of Trust. But, the exclusion of the Clergy, can hardly fail to prevent them from taking an active part in favour of the University. And, where the Clergy do not feel an interest, it is hardly to be expected, that young men, having the Ministry in view, will resort, for education. Let it not, then, be thought strange, when we say, that the University, under its present arrangement, and under a continuance of present circumstances, is not likely to become a place, where many young men, having the Ministry in view, will resort, for education. An institution, where education, for this purpose, shall be made a more direct object of attention, is, therefore, to be desired.

But, further: We receive it as a settled truth, that no literary institution can long continue to flourish, where a direct religious influence does not prevail. The more decided and extensive this religious influence is, the better is the prospect, that the institution will be durable and useful. Where the Officers partake much of the spirit of religion; where they perform their duties under a deep and ever-prevailing sense of responsibility to God;—there, religious instruction will be most faithfully given; there,

the students are most likely to be affected with truth; and there, the greatest amount of perceptible good, in education, is usually found.

An institution may be established for scientific and literary purposes alone. In such a case, religion, in every shape and form, may be excluded. But, that it will long continue to flourish, is a position, by no means certain. In an institution established by a State, and which is the common property of all, no exclusive privileges can be given. To countenance any religious instruction, is to give a preference to what is peculiar. Religious instruction, then, if admitted at all, must be admitted, by courtesy; or at the expense, and in violation of chartered rights. Admitted by courtesy, the influence the instruction is designed to give, must, in a great measure, be neutralized, through fear that some may take offence, on account of a supposed invasion of their rights. It must be dealt out in such general terms, and spread out into such a broad extent, as to appear of little importance whether received or not. It is only when truth is directed to some particular point, that its influence on the mind is felt. Religion, and religious instruction, admitted into a literary institution by courtesy, must always be tame; and, in a great measure, inoperative in its effects. It will be endured, only while it is regulated by the same courtesy by which it was admitted. While it leaves the conscience undisturbed and while general faults only are reproved, and that in general terms, it will be allowed to remain without declared opposition; but when religion sets up a distinctive claim to attention; when it demands a separation from the fashionable customs of the world, and administers unequivocal reproof for particular faults, then, it becomes an unwelcome intruder; and, if its rights are not made an inherent part of the institution, it will be ejected.

In a State institution, the influence of religion must be comparatively small; for the obvious reason, that, to become prominent, it must assume a sectarian aspect. Motives, and arguments, drawn from other sources, must be substituted, to produce an influence on the youthful mind. Appeals must be made to worldly principles, to stimulate to diligence, and secure obedience to wholesome regulations. Instead of arguments drawn from the retributions of a future world, the rules of decorum, present and future reputation, and the good opinion of men, form the sources, from which alone, arguments can be drawn, to influence the conduct, and assist in moulding the character, for its future condition. State influence,—the disapprobation, on the one hand, and the applause, on the other, of public men;—and the hope of future renown, must furnish the motives to stimulate, rather than a solemn responsibility to God, as accountable beings.

In an institution thus fettered, religious instruction can never assume that bold and dignified aspect, so essential to its true character. Motives, and arguments, drawn from the maxims and principles of the world, even in their best form, must and always will be feeble, compared with those, drawn from the high principles, sanctioned by the Eternal Being. No code of moral duties will be effectual to restrain from vice, which is not given forth, from the High Court of Heaven; and is not enforced, by the rewards and penalties of another world. Such a code requires all the sanctions of religion; and can never be well understood, or well appreciated, except where religious instruction is untrammelled; and stands forth,

in all the dignity and majesty of its divine original. It is not enough that it be admitted by courtesy; or that its existence be merely tolerated: It must assume a bolder aspect; and instead of being dictated to, it must be allowed to dictate freely, both what shall be done and what shall be avoided. Such a license can hardly be expected, in an institution, which claims a like indulgence for the Infidel and the Christian; and equal liberty for him who believes that every sect is equally good, and him who believes that his own only can be right.

Having, thus, given our opinion of the importance of a direct religious influence, in a literary institution, both as relates to the education of young men for the Ministry, and to the general success of the students; and having also expressed our opinion of the benefit to be derived to the community from the establishment of other Colleges in addition to the University, we now proceed, more directly, to the immediate object of our appointment; viz: to inquire, Whether Davidson College be such an institution as may answer the purpose required; and whether it be such as ought to be encouraged?

In commencing our survey, it may not be improper to remark, that the object of the founders of this institution was not merely to build up a Presbyterian College; but, to provide an institution, where religious instruction should not be left to the contingency of chance, or be dependent on courtesy for permission to be given; but should form a constituent part of a system of education; so that its influence should be brought to bear directly upon the mind, during the whole course of study. They felt, as all good men should feel, that religious instruction should not be thrown into the back ground; or occupy a second place, in the scale of importance. They felt, as the Fathers and founders of our best institutions felt, that a provision made for education, without the accompaniment of religious instruction, would be but to expose the young to scepticism and infidelity. They regarded the prevalence of a religious influence, in a literary institution, as necessary, not only for giving a greater efficiency to discipline, but also for laying the foundation for a greater elevation of character; and for preparing young men to exert a more salutary influence, when they go out to take a part in the concerns of society. These impressions were deeply in-wrought in the minds of the Founders of this Institution; and exerted a powerful influence over all their operations. That other reasons were mingled with these, is true. One object with them, was, to build an institution, where young men, whose means were limited, might obtain a good education. A College, situated amid a dense population, consisting, mostly, of men engaged in agricultural pursuits, and in moderate circumstances, they supposed, would so attract attention, by its proximity, as to draw numbers within its reach, who, otherwise, would remain without a public education.

Another and prominent object with them, was, to provide a place, where young men, looking forward to the gospel ministry, might obtain an education, under an influence, and in connexion with circumstances, adapted to their contemplated profession. Few among the sons of the wealthy look to the Ministry for employment; while such as are willing to devote themselves to this calling, are rarely able to meet the out-lays required in our more expensive institutions. To provide a place for the education of

such, was, therefore, in their judgment, an important object, as connected with the perpetuity of the Christian Ministry.

The particular measures adopted, in the first establishment of the institution, your committee do not think it necessary to recite. Suffice it to observe, that the institution has been in operation a little more than seven years; and that, during this time, its advance has been as good, as, under all attending circumstances, could be expected.

The College is located in the Northern part of Mecklenburg County, within about seven miles of Beatty's ford, across the Catawba river. In the original projection of the institution, it was intended, that it should be a manual labour establishment; and, to facilitate this object, a tract of four hundred and seventy acres of land, was purchased. Subsequent experience having proved the impracticability of the manual labour part, it was abandoned; and three hundred acres of the land were sold; and the proceeds were appropriated to the liquidation of debts that had been incurred. There remain, therefore, as the property of the institution, a hundred and seventy acres of land, part of which is under cultivation; and the remainder is still in its natural state. On this tract, a section has been laid off, for the buildings of the institution; not, however, as we conceive, with sufficient regard to convenience, or good taste; in both which respects, considerable improvement might be made.

The buildings of the institution are, three dwelling houses; one for the President, and two for Professors; five dormitories for students, each containing four rooms; a large building for a Steward's hall, and the accommodation of his family; and another large building, which is used as a chapel, and for recitation rooms, for holding the meetings of the literary societies, and depositing their libraries. These buildings are constructed, mostly of brick; and covered with tin. The chapel building, in particular, is well constructed; well situated; and well calculated for durability. The estimated cost of all the buildings, is Twenty-five thousand dollars.

The College Library is small; and not very valuable. Each of the two literary societies has a Library, containing about nine hundred volumes. These Libraries are made up of well chosen books, deposited in suitable cases, and preserved in a good condition.

The philosophical and chemical Apparatus is incomplete; especially that of Chemistry;—the whole cost of both being only Six hundred dollars. In Natural Philosophy, the Apparatus is sufficient, to illustrate the general principles of the most important parts of the science.

There are three permanent Officers;—the President, who also instructs, as a Professor, in some branches of science; a Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy; and a Professor of the Latin and Greek languages. Besides these, there is one Tutor, who is occupied, partly, in the preparatory department; and partly, with the classes in College. The salary of the permanent officers, is a thousand dollars, together with a house, garden, and other conveniences. The Tutor receives Four hundred dollars; which, however, is paid, altogether by the permanent officers.

The time when your committee visited the institution, was, at the commencement of a Session; and also at the opening of a new Academic year. Many of the students had not arrived. The number then present,

was about sixty. Your committee understood, that about twenty more were expected; so that the whole number, when fully organized, would be about eighty. The Freshman class, your committee were informed, would number eighteen. As the organization of the institution was incomplete, your committee had not a fair opportunity of hearing the recitations; and, of course, could form no adequate judgment of the character of the instruction. The Officers, your committee found to be pleasant and amiable men; ready to give any information in their power, concerning the institution; and apparently enjoying a large share in the affections of the students.

The funds of the institution, are by no means so ample, and so prosperous, as its wants demand. The original subscription amounted to Thirty-six thousand dollars. Of this sum, from seven to nine thousand dollars remain unpaid; and this uncollected balance is supposed to be unavailable. The remainder has been expended, in providing buildings, and in sustaining the expenses of the institution. The manual labour part, which was continued for several years, was found to be a sinking concern; and was the occasion of losing a considerable sum, before it was abandoned. A subscription, subsequent to the first, has been taken up, for the purpose of endowing a Professorship; a considerable part of which has been secured. There is also in the hands of the Treasurer, supposed to be in good securities, an amount of near two thousand dollars. But, there are debts, against the institution, of near three thousand dollars; which will be more than an offset to the amount in the hands of this officer. The amount of available funds, after paying all debts, we were informed, would be about Eighteen thousand dollars. The income of this, with the receipts from tuition, are all the means, upon which, at present, the institution can rely. The charge for tuition, is Thirty Dollars per annum. The sum of Two thousand dollars, is, probably, as much as can be relied upon, from this source. This, with the income from the fund, will make an annual income of Three thousand Dollars. The expense of sustaining the three Professors, is Three Thousand Dollars annually; besides the Four Hundred Dollars for the Tutor, which ought, certainly, to be paid by the College. Beyond this, there are a variety of contingent expenses always accruing; so that an income of Four thousand Dollars is as small a sum as can fairly be put down, for the expenses of the institution, in its present condition.

In considering what is to be done to improve the condition of the institution, we think, that considerable changes, in the condition of things, are needed. As new dormitories for the students will be needed, we think that the dwellings designed for the President and one of the Professors, which are incommodious buildings, should be converted into dormitories; and new buildings be erected for these officers. Other dormitories still will be needed, should the institution be in a flourishing condition. Something considerable needs also to be done, in laying out, improving, and enclosing the College grounds. If the salary of the President be fixed at Twelve Hundred Dollars, with a house, and the perquisites of office, which is as low as any competent man can be expected to take the place; the salary of each Professor, at a thousand dollars, with a house; and two Tutors, each at Four hundred dollars, there will then need to be an income

of Five Thousand Dollars. The present income, from funds, we will suppose, is a thousand dollars. Add to this, from the tuition, we will suppose, of Eighty students, at Thirty dollars each, which will make an amount of Twenty four hundred dollars; and the whole annual income will then be, Three thousand four hundred dollars. There will, then, remain, a deficit of Sixteen Hundred Dollars, to be provided for, by some other means. This deficit of Sixteen Hundred Dollars, annually, if provided for by a fund, will require an addition of Twenty seven Thousand Dollars. The changes in the buildings, the new ones to be erected, the improvement in the Apparatus, and other things, may be put down at Twenty three Thousand Dollars; thus, making the sum of Fifty thousand dollars necessary to be raised, to place the institution in a good condition, before the public. And this sum, judiciously expended, will, we believe, place the institution in such a condition, as to secure to it, a liberal patronage of students, for many years.

There is one practice adopted, involving expense, which, we think, demands revision; and that is, the practice of allowing the students to occupy the rooms in the dormitories, free of rent. The College buildings ought, in some way, to be made to pay their own repairs, and their own insurance. We see no reason, why the public should be taxed, to furnish rooms for the students, free of rent. Other Colleges tax their students, for room-rent; and, with some of them, the rent amounts to no inconsiderable income. At Harvard, the charge is Fifteen dollars each, per annum; at Yale, Twelve; at Amherst, Nine; at Princeton, Six; at Newark College, four; at our University, and at Wake Forest, Two. A reasonable charge, for rent, cannot, certainly, be objected to; for, it is not a valid argument, to say, that, as the rooms were built by donation, therefore, they should be exempt from rent. Few of the individuals who subscribed to aid the building, have sons to occupy; and, surely, there is no reason, why their donations should be expended, for those who are able to pay for the use of the property. We think it reasonable, therefore, that there should be a charge made, for the rooms. Suppose there were forty rooms occupied, each by two students, paying four dollars each, annually, for a room; the amount would be Three hundred and twenty Dollars;—a sum sufficient to keep the buildings in repair; and to pay an insurance on the most important.

We come, now, to the most difficult part of our inquiry: How, and by what means, can the funds requisite to sustain the institution, be obtained? We believe, that this object is worthy of serious consideration. We do not hesitate to say, that, in our opinion, a College, in Western Carolina, is desirable and important; and, as Davidson College has been planted, and has acquired such a growth, it is a matter worthy of inquiry, whether it ought not to be encouraged. One way in which it should be encouraged, is, by making it a subject of prayer. As the professed object of the Founders, was, to aid the cause of the Redeemer, so the institution should be specially remembered, by all who wish for its prosperity. The countenance and patronage of its friends, should be extended to it, in persuading young men, as far as may be found consistent with circumstances, and duties to others, to resort thither for education. But the immediate want is funds. How shall these be raised? The principal part of the burden,

we apprehend, must fall for the present, on the people in the region where the institution is situated. They are the people who are to receive a more immediate benefit; and to them, it will be a benefit, in various ways. Besides furnishing a place of easy access, for the education of their young men, the reflex influence on society will there be most extensively felt. Whatever benefits society, makes property more valuable, and adds to the comforts of life. To the people of the surrounding region, the College must, more particularly, look for aid. When the people of that region shall have carried it forward so far, that others, at a distance, shall feel a confidence that their additional aid will secure ultimate success, then may the institution look abroad for help. Whether so much has been done by the people of that region as to secure such confidence, may, perhaps, be a matter of doubt. So small a sum, as could now, probably, under existing circumstances, be raised abroad, would accomplish but little; and perhaps, in the event, prove to have been thrown away. Let the surrounding community bring it near the requisite point, and then, there will be ground for encouragement to others. Should the people in the surrounding region succeed in endowing another Professorship, an appeal, then, might, with the hope of success, be made to other parts of the State.*

In relation to the manner of raising funds, a few words will suffice. The usual method, in such institutions, is, to aim at erecting a permanent fund, the income of which may be applied to sustain the expenses of the institution.

Here, it is natural to inquire,—Can Davidson College be sustained; and can it ever become such an institution as will hold a good rank among sister institutions, and be likely to attract any considerable attention to itself, as a place of education? It should be remembered, that there are but few Colleges that rank so high as to command general attention through the Country, and exert a general influence on the cause of education. Of the sixty which our Country contains, comparatively few are known, beyond the immediate region where they are located. They are all, however, useful in their place; and exert no little influence on the community that surround them. Davidson College is located in a section of Country, where the influence of such an institution will be appreciated; and be productive of much good. It is easy of access; and, placed in the midst of a rich section of territory, it will always be surrounded by a dense population; out of which, many young men will be desirous of obtaining an education. These will find this institution, on many accounts, an eligible place of resort. The Districts of Spartanburg, York, Lancaster, and Chesterfield, in South Carolina; and the Counties of Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Anson, Lincoln, Rutherford, Burke, Iredell, Wilkes, Davy, Rowan, and Stanley, in North Carolina, will find this the most convenient place for them. Surry, together with the Counties further to the West; with Richmond, Moore, Montgomery, Robeson, and other Eastern Counties, will, for various reasons, always contribute, more or less, to the patronage of this institution. The Districts and Counties which we have named, con-

*We have recently learned, that, in addition to the moneys previously raised in the vicinity of the College, the Trustees have undertaken to raise a second Professorship, in the same vicinity. For this purpose, they have appointed an Agent, who, within five or six weeks, has raised the sum of Six Thousand Dollars. The prospect for the completion of this Professorship, appears to be fair.

tain a population of Two hundred and seventy thousand souls; a population considerably exceeding that of the State of Connecticut, previous to the establishment of the two denominational Colleges, while Yale was the only College, and yet was in a flourishing condition. Within the limits of the District of Country which has been described, there are between eight and nine thousand members of Presbyterian Churches. How many of other denominations, we have no means of determining. Supposing that the patronage of the institution is confined to the Presbyterian denomination, there is a sufficient population of that order, within the limits named, not only to justify, but even to demand, that the institution should, by them, be sustained. But, if conducted on liberal principles, the Presbyterian is not the only denomination that will patronise the institution. Other denominations, from contiguity of situation, or from motives of economy, and, as may be hoped, from the intrinsic merits of the institution, will patronise it, to some extent. Patronage, too, from other parts of the State, may be expected, when the character of the institution shall have become established and known.

What, then, is to be done, in order to place the institution in an attractive position, before the public? A College cannot be brought to maturity in a day. It requires time and labour, to bring it to such a degree of perfection as to secure public confidence. Davidson College, considering the time that it has been in existence, has been carried forward, as fast, and as far, as could be expected. It has, however, reached a point, beyond which, it cannot well advance, without pecuniary aid; and yet, before it will command attention extensively, it must advance. There is no alternative, but to go back, or forward. If it do not go forward, it must retire into the rank of an ordinary intermediate institution. The public will not long be content to patronise an institution, which has no prospect of passing the time of its minority. To secure a continued patronage, there must be a fair prospect, that it will pass on, gradually, from its minority to manhood. Years, it is true, will be required, to give to it, that maturity, and place it on that elevated ground, that will cause it to form a Centre, from which will be radiated, an influence that will bring back a patronage of wide extent. Confidence will grow stronger, as the institution advances; and every stage of improvement will gather around it, an increasing patronage, and render it more an object of attraction. To secure this confidence, there must be a movement, that will occasion considerable expense. There should be, at least, one additional Professor; and there should be, besides the Professors, as many as two Tutors. Could there be a Faculty, consisting of a President, who, for the time being, might be a Teacher of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy and Rhetoric; a Professor of Languages; a Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy; a Professor of Chemistry and Natural History; and two Assistant Tutors, the institution might hope, for a number of years, to secure a respectful regard from the public. A Professor of Intellectual and Moral Philosophy and of Logic, is desirable; but the superintendence of these studies, might, for the present, be merged in the duties of the President. A Professorship of Chemistry, and Natural History, considering the present state of public opinion in relation to these branches of education, is indispensable. To accommodate this arrangement, there must be provided, another house for a Professor, and there must be a building for a Laboratory and a

Cabinet. Some addition to the Philosophical, and considerable to the Chemical Apparatus, it will also be needful to procure. It is desirable, moreover, that a more extensive Library should be collected; though we do not consider this as indispensable as the other things that have been named. Further conveniences, too, for the accommodation of students, would be needed, to meet the other arrangements suggested. If, in any way, the College can be furnished with the means of sustaining such a Faculty, and of providing suitable accommodations for the Officers, for the students, and for the operations of the institution, we see no reason why it may not prosper, and take rank among the important institutions of the land.

We are aware, that many pious and judicious persons, both among the Clergy and Laity in the State, entertain different views from some of those which we have expressed. Even among those who feel that there is a want of an institution where there shall be a more direct religious influence, there are not a few, who, from one reason and another, regard the effort to build up Davidson College, as an attempt that must prove abortive. Some regard the multiplication of Colleges as an evil;—as creating an unnecessary expense; and tending to excite sectional and rival feelings. Some think it an objection, that the direction of the institution is placed so much in the hands of a single religious denomination. In the view we have taken of the whole matter, we have placed no reliance upon any argument, that some would, perhaps, draw from this source, in favour of the institution. Our opinion is founded on general principles; that another College would be useful in the State; and particularly in Western Carolina; and that, as Davidson College has been commenced, it should be encouraged. We place much reliance on the importance of making religious instruction a direct and distinct part of a system of education. We fear, that this can never be very effectual, in an institution, where it is tolerated only by courtesy, and is not provided for, particularly, by the Overseers and Managers. To guard the mind from error; to instil into it, a reverential regard for sacred things; and to endeavour to give a right turn to opinion, feeling, and action, concerning religion, we believe, is the bounden duty of every Teacher, and of those bearing rule in every literary institution. Not that the Teacher, or institution, is to become the tool of party, or sect; or that he is to cause every individual to learn the Shibboleths of his own party, or sect; but, it is, to inculcate, by precept and example, the broad principles of revealed religion; and to do all that can be done, to make these principles tell, on the minds of all concerned. Davidson College is under the direction and management of a body of men, who, to say the least, ought to foster the interests of religion. It is not to be expected, that men in civil and political life, will undertake, in a special manner, to guard the interests of religion: But, an institution, under the care of those, whose very business it is to attend to religion, may expect to feel their influence, in every department which it embraces. A College, around which, the Clergy entwine their influence, must, certainly, be a more suitable place for the education of those designed for the Ministry, than one, under the management of men, whose occupation, whose associations, and whose taste, are entirely of a different character. Whether Davidson College shall sustain this peculiar character, time only can determine. That it ought to do so, and that this should be the aim

of its Overseers, cannot be questioned. The success of the institution depends on this; and the more its character for religious instruction is elevated, the larger will be the portion of public confidence that it will secure.

The location of Davidson College, has, by some, been made an objection. It is true, that it is remote from the Eastern part of the State; but it is designed, chiefly, for the accommodation of Western Carolina. We will not say, that, even for this part, there might not have been chosen a more suitable spot. The idea of putting a College in the Woods, for the sake of getting out of the reach of temptation, has, we think, more of theory in it, than of practical wisdom. Still, Davidson College is, for many reasons, in an eligible situation; and, to attempt any removal, would be unwise; and probably, ruinous to the establishment.

The preparatory department, now connected with the institution, we think, should be utterly abandoned. For this, many reasons might be given, appertaining both to the College and to the Students.

Such, Brethren of the Presbytery, is the opinion which your committee have formed, of the expediency of establishing a College in Western Carolina; and of attempting to sustain Davidson, as the College to be established. Having, thus, given our views, in detail, we leave the subject for your consideration. We have not thought it best, to recommend to you any particular plan for action; and whether you will take any action on the business, remains to be decided. The subject is one of too much importance, to be thrown aside without consideration, or to be acted upon with haste. An enterprise of so much magnitude, and involving consequences of so much importance to present and future generations, should be carefully examined; and, whatever decision is made, should be made, after much deliberation; and with much coolness of calculation. A hasty and unpremeditated effort, might create such a disgust in the public mind, as to ruin the whole concern. The public mind must be prepared; information must be circulated through the community; reasons must be assigned for doing; the benefit that is to accrue, to the State and to individuals, must be fully set forth;—and, when all this is done, then, an appeal may be properly made for help. As we have before observed, the friends of the institution, in the surrounding community, must take the lead, in the whole matter. When they gird themselves, in good earnest, to the work, when they shall have aroused the people of the section of Country surrounding the institution, to think and feel that they have an important object before them; and that, if they do not put to their strength, it will be lost; and when, under the strength of this feeling, such efforts shall be made as will inspire confidence abroad, that the institution will live and thrive; then may the people of other parts of the State be appealed to, to contribute their aid to the work. Whether such a state of things now exists, you, in your wisdom, will decide; and whether it is best to act, and how it is best to act, you will also determine.

Having thus, as they suppose, discharged the duty assigned to them, your committee leave their report with you; fervently praying, that God, who directs his chosen servants, will direct you; and enable you to do that, which duty to yourselves, to the public, and to the cause of the Redeemer, may require.

All which is respectfully submitted.
SIMEON COLTON, Chairman of the Committee.

